

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 and 6-20 are present in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1-4 and 6-19 have been amended, claim 5 has been canceled, and claim 20 has been added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

With regard to the informal claim objections noted on page 2 of the Office Action, these items have been addressed in the amended claims. Withdrawal of the objections is requested.

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended herein to address the concerns raised in the Office Action and generally to more clearly satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-19. As noted, claim 1 has been amended to address the concerns raised in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Additionally, with reference to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter, claim 1 has been further amended to generally correspond to the features outlined by the Examiner on page 5 of the Office Action. With regard to the contact roller 4, claim 1 recites that the contact roller is flexibly supported such that moving the at least one bearing unit causes a bending line of the contact roller to adjust with respect to the web-shaped material. Applicant respectfully submits that at least this subject matter is lacking in the references of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the

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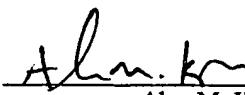
application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's
undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Prompt passage to issuance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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